

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-13 without prejudice. Please amend claims 14-15, 17, 20-24, 35-36, and 40-41 as follows.

1 – 13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently amended) A method as in claim ~~13~~ 22, wherein the ~~signaling entity~~ nanoparticle is ~~the nanoparticle~~ a signaling entity.

15. (Currently amended) A method as in claim ~~13~~ 22, wherein the nanoparticle ~~includes an auxiliary~~ comprises a signaling entity immobilized relative thereto.

16. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 15, wherein the signaling entity is a metallocene fastened to the nanoparticle.

17. (Currently amended) A method as in claim 16, wherein each of the surface areas comprises an electrode, and an electromagnet is associated with each of the first and second ~~predetermined~~ surface areas, positioned to draw the first ~~or second~~ article to the first ~~or second~~ ~~predetermined~~ surface area and the magnetic bead or magnetic particle to the second surface area, respectively.

18. (Original) A method as in claim 16, wherein the metallocene is ferrocene.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently amended) A method as in claim ~~18~~ 22, wherein ~~each of the first or second agents~~ the biological or chemical agent is a candidate drug.

21. (Currently amended) A method as in claim ~~18~~ 22, wherein the drawing step is carried out in the presence of a candidate drug, and ~~each of the first or second agents~~ the biological or chemical agent is a potential target of the candidate drug.

22. (Currently amended) A method of magnetically manipulating a chemical or biological agent comprising:

providing a plurality of magnetic beads or magnetic particles each carrying a chemical or biological agent immobilized relative thereto;

exposing the beads or the particles to a plurality of nanoparticles each carrying a potential binding partner of the chemical or biological agent to allow the nanoparticles to bind to some of the magnetic beads or magnetic particles via chemical or biological agent/binding partner interaction thereby forming a first article;

magnetically drawing the magnetic beads or the magnetic particles to a plurality of predetermined locations at a surface;

determining first surface locations at which ~~nanoparticles have~~ the first article has been drawn and second surface locations substantially free of nanoparticles; and

selectively magnetically releasing magnetic beads or magnetic particles from the second surface locations while holding magnetic beads or magnetic particles of the first article at the first surface locations.

23. (Currently amended) A method as in claim 22, further comprising removing magnetic beads or magnetic particles released from the vicinity of the second surface locations; and repeating one or more times the steps of magnetically drawing, determining, and releasing.

24. (Currently amended) A method as in claim 22, further comprising:
removing magnetic beads or magnetic particles released from the vicinity of the first and second surface locations;
releasing magnetic beads or magnetic particles from the first surface locations; and
repeating one or more times the steps of magnetically drawing; determining, and releasing.

25. (Original) A method as in claim 24, further comprising, prior to the repeating step:
adding fluid to dilute particles released from the first surface locations.

26. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 23, comprising detecting the presence of nanoparticles at surface locations visually.

27. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 23, comprising detecting the presence of nanoparticles at surface locations by electromagnetically stimulating a metallocene linked to the nanoparticles.

28. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 22, comprising detecting the presence of nanoparticles at surface locations by electromagnetically stimulating a metallocene linked to the nanoparticles.

29. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 24, further comprising identifying at least one first chemical or biological agent.

30 – 34. (Canceled)

35. (Currently amended) A method as in claim ~~13~~ 22, wherein the first article further comprises a DNA sequence immobilized thereto on the magnetic bead or the magnetic particle which identifies the ~~first~~ biological or chemical agent of the first article, the method further comprising identifying the ~~first~~ biological or chemical agent of the first article by identifying the DNA sequence.

36. (Currently amended) A method as in claim 35, comprising first selectively magnetically releasing the ~~second article~~ magnetic beads or the magnetic particles from the second location while holding the first article at the first location, and then identifying the ~~first~~ biological or chemical agent of the first article by identifying the DNA sequence.

37 – 39. (Canceled)

40. (Currently amended) A method as in claim 22, further comprising providing at least one magnetic bead or magnetic particle held at a first surface location according to the method, and identifying at least one chemical or biological agent carried by the at least one magnetic bead or magnetic particle by identifying a DNA sequence immobilized relative to the magnetic bead or magnetic particle.

41. (Currently amended) A method as in claim 22, further comprising providing at least one magnetic bead or magnetic particle held at a first surface location according to the method, the magnetic bead or magnetic particle immobilized relative to a nanoparticle, and identifying at least one binding partner of the chemical or biological agent carried by the at least one magnetic bead or magnetic particle by identifying a DNA sequence immobilized relative to the nanoparticle.

42. – 43. (Canceled)